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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM
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TO: The Secretary
FROM: IO - Douglas J. Bennet ^{Bj}
SUBJECT: Special Session of the UN Human Rights Commission

SUMMARY

Canada on May 9 called for a special session of the UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) on the human rights situation in Rwanda. We support this request, and plan to campaign actively among African and other states to make sure the suggestion is seconded by the needed 26 other members of the UNHRC.

DISCUSSION

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Jose Ayala Lasso is now visiting Rwanda and other nations in Africa. He will report the results of his trip to a special session of the UNHRC, if a minimum of 27 member states of the UNHRC agree for the session to be held. The deadline for nations to respond to Canada's request is May 16. A special session would last one or two days, and would probably begin on May 20 or May 24.

We want to make certain that the African members of the UNHRC are fully on board with this proposal and have sent a telegram to member states capitals, requesting support from African and other governments for this session.

We are meeting with Canada to identify practical goals for the session and expect them to include:

- A condemnation of human rights violations committed in Rwanda;
- The establishment of a UNHRC special rapporteur on the human rights situation in Rwanda;
- The stationing of UN human rights monitors in Rwanda as soon as practical;
- Consideration of appropriate national, regional or multilateral mechanisms to investigate human rights abuses in Rwanda.

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